



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 March 2008

Current Nationwide



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- According to the Associated Press, federal officials are investigating a problem with electrical transformers at the Exelon Generation Company's Byron Nuclear Power Plant in northern Illinois. Officials at the plant said the incident presents no threat to public safety. (See item [11](#))
- Fox News reports the Virginia State Police said that at least four cars were struck by bullets along an 11-mile stretch of the highway. A Virginia Department of Transportation vehicle was found with bullet holes near an exit for I-64 along Route 250, FOX News has confirmed. The freeway was shut down between about midnight and 6 a.m. Thursday, and Albemarle County Schools were closed. (See item [13](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical:** ELEVATED, **Cyber:** ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *March 27, Associated Press* – (International) **Oil nears \$108 amid Iraqi output concern.** Oil futures shot to nearly \$108 a barrel Thursday as concerns about Iraqi oil output stole investors' attention from the dollar, which stabilized against the euro. Insurgents bombed a key Iraqi oil pipeline Thursday morning. Iraqi oil officials said the attack and ongoing clashes in Basra would not affect oil exports, but Dow Jones Newswires later reported that exports from southern Iraqi terminals have been cut to

about 1.2 million barrels a day from a normal rate of 1.56 million barrels a day. Light, sweet crude for May delivery rose \$1.40 to \$107.30 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier rising as high as \$107.70. The news from Iraq added to supply concerns stoked Wednesday when the government reported that domestic crude oil inventories were mostly unchanged last week, while fuel supplies fell more than expected. The supply concerns temporarily drew investors' attention from the dollar, which rose slightly against the euro, reversing a trend that sent oil futures surging nearly \$5 on Wednesday.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12400801/>

2. *March 27, Associated Press*– (California) **Firefighters find toxic leak at Greka Oil site in Santa Maria.** Toxic hydrogen sulfide gas leaking from a Greka Oil and Gas pipeline forced the California Highway Patrol to shut down a Santa Maria roadway as a precaution. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department's hazardous materials crew responding to the toxic gas leak early Wednesday found a four-inch underground crude oil pipeline ruptured and toxic gas was released. A fire captain said the Greka facility was evacuated. A vacuum truck was brought in to drain the pipe of fluids and gas. The soil will be excavated to determine how much crude leaked out of the pipe. Greka said in a statement that its facility could not have been the source of the hydrogen sulfide, which is a byproduct of the oil production process.

Source: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/breakingnews/story/315776.html>

3. *March 27, Bloomberg* – (California) **ConocoPhillips shuts Arroyo plant near San Francisco.** ConocoPhillips said it is shutting down one of its two refineries near San Francisco. The 46,500 barrel-a-day Santa Maria plant in Arroyo Grande, California, is releasing sulfur dioxide "in the process of brining down the refinery," ConocoPhillips said in a filing to the California Office of Emergency Services. Flaring started at 6:51 p.m. local time yesterday and is continuing, according to the filing.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=a.Vey2rV6_bl&refer=energy

4. *March 27, USA Today* – (California) **California utility plans massive, \$875M solar project.** Southern California Edison plans to announce Thursday what it says will be the largest solar installation in the U.S., spending \$875 million to put 250 megawatts of solar energy on more than 100 buildings in the greater Los Angeles area. The systems will cover 65 million square feet of rooftops and supply enough power to serve about 162,000 homes. They will be embedded on warehouse buildings that use little electricity. The systems are designed to supply electricity on hot summer days when the power grid is under the greatest stress and wholesale prices are highest. That is also when the sun is shining brightest, providing optimum solar energy. The project will help Edison meet a state requirement to obtain 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2010. Edison has commitments to get 16 percent of its power from renewables. The panels will also insulate customers from the effects of power outages miles away. Edison plans to install systems on the first few buildings by August.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/environment/2008-03-26-solar->

[energy-california_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip](#)

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *March 27, Daily Green* – (Texas) **DuPont had an “illegal” chemical plant: Lawsuit.** DuPont is facing an \$800 million lawsuit that alleges it operated an “illegal” chemical manufacturing plant in Texas for four years, and polluted the air with high levels of toxic benzene from a second Texas plant. Those are two highlights of 687 violations allegedly uncovered at 15 plants. The allegations come courtesy of Invista, a fibers and resins business The Koch Industries bought from DuPont in 2004 for \$4 billion, according to the Wichita Eagle. Invista wants DuPont to pay for the cost of correcting past environmental, health and safety violations, plus a few million dollars in penalties for “deliberately putting employees and the public at significant health risk,” as the Eagle put it. DuPont called the lawsuit “misguided.” “The Department of Health and Human Services has determined that benzene is a known carcinogen. The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the EPA have determined that benzene is carcinogenic to humans.”

Source: <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/dupont-invista-lawsuit-47032704>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *March 27, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Hanford nuclear tours more popular than ever.** The U.S. Department of Energy is offering twice as many tours of the Hanford nuclear reservation than in previous years. But it still is not enough to satisfy the public’s curiosity about the site. The department had offered 48 tours for the public to register for on a first-come, first-serve basis. The registration opened early March 17, but by 6 p.m., all 2,000 spots were filled. The tours start April 2.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2008-03-27-hanford-nuclear-tours_N.htm

7. *March 27, Industrial Info Resources* – (Texas) **Texas nuclear plant prepares for planned refueling and NRC maintenance.** According to reports from personnel close to the Comanche Peak Nuclear Generating Station, the plant will commence a nearly month-long refueling and maintenance outage this coming weekend. Not only will contractors and maintenance crews refuel the 1,150-megawatt Unit 2, but they will also perform weld-overlays within the unit’s pressurizer – repairs deemed mandatory by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/080327/0380141.html>

8. *March 27, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Deeper look at safety of Pilgrim pipes.** A panel of three nuclear power experts is holding a hearing April 10 on whether the Pilgrim nuclear power plant must do more to protect the public against the possibility of

leaks of radioactive liquid from the plant's buried pipes and tanks. The long-awaited evidentiary hearing will consider a challenge by citizens group Pilgrim Watch to the 20-year license extension sought by the plant. The experts are chosen by federal regulators overseeing Plymouth's license renewal application.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/03/27/deeper_look_at_safety_of_pilgrim_pipes/

9. *March 27, Tri-City Herald* – (National) **Isotope symposium in Tri-Cities highlights advances.** Citizens for Medical Isotopes sponsored a symposium on medical isotopes Wednesday in Kennewick, Washington. Several invited speakers emphasized the importance of medical isotope production for the nation and saw Kennewick's Advanced Medical Isotope Corp. as a key step for future growth. It will renew U.S. interest in isotope research, they said. Medical isotopes support about 20 million clinical procedures annually in the U.S., but more than 90 percent of them are imported, said the head of the radioisotope program at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, who is also the scientific director of the Office of National Isotope Programs. The shutdown of a Canadian reactor in December highlighted U.S. vulnerabilities, he said. That temporary shortage delayed many medical procedures, said a professor of medicine and urology at the University of Washington. Advanced Medical Isotope Corp. will help close the gap in radioisotope availability in the U.S., she said.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/901/story/139214.html>

10. *March 27, Dallas Morning News* – (Texas) **NRG's estimate for Texas nuclear reactors still climbing.** NRG Energy Inc.'s estimate of the cost to build two nuclear reactors in south Texas keeps climbing. Last summer, officials with the power plant developer said the reactors at the South Texas Project would cost between \$6 billion and \$7 billion. On Wednesday, executives said the reactors will probably cost \$8 billion. Blame higher costs for material used to build power plants and the weak dollar. U.S. companies no longer make some of the massive parts for nuclear reactors, since the country has not built nuclear power plants in decades. So NRG must import about 30 percent of the parts for the reactors from Japan. As the dollar weakens, equipment from Japanese manufacturers costs more. "There's a total absence of the U.S. supply chain" for nuclear parts, said the NRG chief executive. He described a deal with NRG's nuclear equipment vendor, Toshiba Corp., to form a power plant development company. Since Texas deregulated its power industry, a nuclear reactor developer can no longer pass along higher costs to consumers in electricity rates. Instead, NRG must pay for the reactors now and hope to recoup the cost when it sells electricity into the Texas power market in a few years.

Source: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-nrgcost_27bus.ART.State.Edition1.15de092.html

11. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Federal officials investigate incident at Byron Nuclear Power Plant.** Federal officials are investigating a problem with electrical transformers at the Exelon Generation Company's Byron Nuclear Power Plant in northern Illinois. Officials at the plant said the incident presents no threat to public

safety. Outside electrical power delivered to a unit at the plant was interrupted because of a problem with electrical transformers. It happened before 7 p.m. on Tuesday. The regional administrator for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the plant is in stable condition and inspectors plan to continue monitoring the plant for problems. Federal officials will evaluate the plant's response to the incident.

Source: <http://www.kwqc.com/Global/story.asp?S=8075399>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to Report

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Banking and Finance Sector

12. *March 27, Associated Press* – (New Hampshire; International) **International check scam traced to Concord.** State Police say two Concord, New Hampshire, men are suspects in an international scam that has stolen \$5 million to \$10 million from people selling items on the internet. Police say the men received monthly shipments of pre-printed, authentic looking bank checks, and instructions on who they should make the fraudulent checks out to and where to mail them. The bogus checks, usually made out for more than the sale price, were sent to sellers, with instructions to deposit the check and send the extra money back to the bogus buyer. After sending the money, the sellers learn that the checks were bogus. Police believe the operation is based in Nigeria.

Source: http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=8076638&nav=menu183_2_4

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Transportation Sector

13. *March 27, FoxNews* – (Virginia) **Virginia police hunt for sniper in motorist shootings along interstate 64.** A 20-mile section of I-64 was closed Wednesday night and into the early morning as officers pursued a gunman – but has since been reopened. State police said that at least four cars were struck by bullets along an 11-mile stretch of the highway. A Virginia Department of Transportation vehicle was found with bullet holes near an exit for I-64 along Route 250, FOX News has confirmed. The freeway was shut down between about midnight and 6 a.m. Thursday, and Albemarle County Schools were closed, according to the district's Web site. A State Police official said two people reported injuries and went to hospitals in Staunton and Waynesboro. He said neither person had life threatening injuries, and he did not know if the victims were struck by a bullet or by glass.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,342119,00.html>

14. *March 27, CNN* – (National) **Delta cancels 325 flights to inspect planes.** Delta Air Lines announced Thursday that it will cancel about 325 flights so that engineers can

inspect two types of planes in its fleet in a “voluntary” safety review. The cancellations will affect flights up until early Friday, according to a statement on Delta’s Web site. Delta is inspecting the wiring of 117 MD-88 and 16 MD-90 aircraft. The airline says the checks are voluntary and are expected to be completed by week’s end. American Airlines, meanwhile, is examining wiring secured to the MD-80 aircraft. This latest round of inspections was prompted by questions raised by the FAA and American safety officials about how a certain bundle of wires is secured to the MD-80 aircraft.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/TRAVEL/03/27/airline.cancellations/index.html>

15. *March 27, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **FAA official seeks changes for inspectors.**

Amid rising concerns over lapses in airline maintenance, a nation’s top aviation safety official says he wants to make it easier for federal inspectors to raise concerns even if their bosses object. A Federal Aviation Administration’s associate administrator for aviation safety says the proposed changes are designed to prevent a repeat of the situation that occurred at Southwest Airlines Co., which flew older 737s that were overdue for inspections with the blessing of an FAA supervisor who dismissed the concerns of lower-level inspectors.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120658121977467413.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

16. *March 26, Associated Press* – (National) **American cancels about 325 flights.**

American Airlines canceled about 325 flights Wednesday so its crews could inspect some wire bundles aboard its MD-80 aircraft. The canceled flights represent about 14 percent of the estimated 2,300 flights that the nation’s biggest airline had scheduled for the day. The highest concentrations of the cancellations were in the airline’s hubs at Dallas-Fort Worth and Chicago O’Hare international airports. American initially put the number of cancellations at 200, but a spokesman said the estimate grew as the day progressed because the airline prefers to hold off on cancellations as long as possible. The entire fleet of MD-80s was being inspected, he said.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080326/ap_on_bi_ge/american_airlines_cancellations

17. *March 26, Associated Press* – (National) **Anti-Missile gear tested on FedEx planes.**

Testing on an anti-missile defense system for commercial airliners has been completed and the system is ready to be deployed on civilian aircraft, defense contractor Northrop Grumman Corp. announced Wednesday. Whether the system will be deployed is up to the airlines and the federal government, officials with the defense contractor said at a news conference where they displayed one of the nearly one dozen FedEx planes that were used to test the system for more than a year. There have been no commercial orders for the system so far, according to a Northrop spokesman. The system uses lasers to confuse heat-seeking missiles. The cost of the removable units depends on the number ordered, but company officials said it would be less than \$1 million each.

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/03/26/travel/main3971143.shtml>

18. *March 26, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Equipment, human factors probed in Canton rail accident.** Transit police, federal investigators, and others spent today trying

to reconstruct a rush-hour commuter crash Tuesday that injured 150 people when a runaway freight car rolled nearly three miles from a Stoughton lumberyard into the path of a commuter rail train in Canton, Massachusetts. “The primary focus of the investigation right now is on the actions of the [Cohenno lumberyard] employees, who are not supposed to be moving freight cars,” said a spokesman for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. The probe is also examining the handbrakes used to secure the freight cars and a device on the tracks called a “derail” that is supposed to push runaway trains off the tracks before they risk a collision. Investigators have not said whether the derail malfunctioned, had been improperly set, or whether the freight car was traveling too fast out of the yard and could not be stopped.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2008/03/investigators_p.html

19. *March 26, WCVB 5 Boston* – (Massachusetts; National) **Federal investigators cited CSX for brake violations in Mass.** After a string of serious accidents involving CSX between November 2006 and January 2007, the Federal Railroad Administration launched a top-to-bottom safety review of the rail line. The inspections in 23 states resulted in at least 141 violations, a civil fine of nearly \$350,000 and a warning from a FRA administrator that CSX must “stay focused and not be distracted from making the necessary long-term investments...that will strengthen its safety culture and performance.” According to inspectors, CSX failed to secure brakes on unattended equipment in Boston and Westboro, Massachusetts. That could be the same problem that led to Tuesday’s collision that sent 150 people to the hospital. The widespread inspection that took place from January 19 to 22, 2007, turned up an initial 199 violations. Thirty-three were not sustained. An additional 25 violations have yet to be settled.

Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/15714936/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *March 26, Queens Courier* – (New York) **‘White powder’ scare clears Bayside High.** Thousands of teens were evacuated from Bayside High School (BHS) shortly after noon on Wednesday, March 26, after a lab technician received a package that contained a suspicious white powder. Shortly after 10 a.m., according to a police source, “The package was received and opened by a science department technician who found that it contained a white powder.” “When the technician came into contact with the contents, they reacted to it, complaining of itching,” the source said. Under emergency procedures established after a series of Anthrax attacks-by-mail and white powder scares which followed 9/11, the school was put under lock-down, and emergency responders were notified. The entire incident proved to be a false alarm. According to a police source, “The package was a proper delivery. It contained fertilizer which had been ordered by some students for a project.” One emergency responder said, “It’s gratifying to see this good a response in just a few minutes.” adding, “Better safe than sorry.”

Source: http://www.queenscourier.com/articles/2008/03/26/news/top_stories/news13.txt

21. *March 26, WFXP 66/WJET 24 Erie* – (Pennsylvania) **White powder at Erie Insurance.** The Erie County, Pennsylvania, Hazardous Materials truck was dispatched to the mail room at Erie Insurance this afternoon. The County Emergency Management director said the truck was sent to check out a report of suspicious white powder delivered to the mail room. The substance was determined not to be anthrax, and was not hazardous. The Erie Insurance building was not evacuated, and emergency procedures were observed. Source: <http://yourerie.com/content/fulltext/?cid=7553>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *March 27, USAgNet* – (National) **Chicken genome leads to new vaccine to fight poultry disease.** Researchers in Michigan, Delaware, and Texas are using the chicken genome sequence to develop vaccines to combat Marek's disease, a highly contagious, cancer-causing viral disease that costs the poultry industry \$1 billion a year worldwide. In the field, Marek's disease virus spreads from bird to bird via inhaled feather dander. Any infected tissue is a mixture of uninfected and infected cells that are closely intermingled, making it difficult to distinguish differences between them. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service through the Initiative for Future Agricultural and Food Systems program. Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=750&yr=2008>
23. *March 27, IRIN* – (International) **Killer wheat fungus a threat to global food security?** The Ug99 strain of the killer wheat fungus (stem rust), which recently infected wheat farms in western Iran, is a serious threat to global food security, agricultural scientists have warned. They have said the fungus may affect additional wheat-producing countries. The director of the Biodiversity and Integrated Gene Management Program at ICARDA told IRIN on 26 March that halting the spread of the stem rust spores is difficult since they are dispersed by the wind and that the most effective way of controlling the disease is to grow resistant varieties. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned in early March that the major wheat-producing countries to the east of Iran should be on high alert. Other areas likely to be affected include the Mediterranean region, North Africa, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe, and Russia. Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/07bc26c73637bb94ba4ceff4067872a1.htm>
24. *March 26, Associated Press* – (National) **USDA might limit meat recall information.** Under pressure from the food industry, the Agriculture Department is considering a proposal not to identify retailers where tainted meat went for sale, except in cases of serious health risk, the Associated Press has learned. Had that been the rule in place last month, consumers would not have been told if their supermarkets sold meat from a Southern California slaughterhouse that triggered the biggest beef recall in U.S. history. The plan is being considered as the USDA puts the final touches on a proposed

disclosure rule. An Agriculture Department spokesman confirmed Wednesday that the agency is weighing whether to make naming the stores mandatory only for so-called “Class I” recalls, which pose the greatest health hazard. The Chino recall was categorized as “Class II” because authorities determined there was minimal risk to human health. Currently, the government discloses only a recall itself. It does not list which retailers might have received recalled meat. The same holds true for recalled vegetables. Consumer groups and some lawmakers contend that the public should have access to the names of retailers in all meat recalls. As originally written, the rule would have applied to all meat recalls.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080326/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/slaughterhouse_abuse_1

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Water Sector

25. *March 26, Water Remediation Technology* – (Georgia) **WRT responds to the call for drought relief in Lawrenceville, Ga., helping to open water well.** A new uranium removal system will enable the city of Lawrenceville, Georgia, to open a well that has concentrations of uranium that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency’s maximum contaminant level for drinking water. The installation of the Lawrenceville system will be the first of its kind in Georgia, and plans are in place for additional systems. Lawrenceville currently purchases about 90 percent of its water supply from Gwinnett County, which pulls from nearby Lake Lanier. With the installation of the uranium removal system, the city of Lawrenceville can begin reducing its dependence on Lake Lanier, which is critical considering the record-breaking drought in north Georgia at this time.

Source: http://www.denverpost.com/coloradocorporatestatements/ci_8701867

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

26. *March 27, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **UN raises alarm on AIDS epidemic in Asia.** Asian governments must devote more funds to preventing AIDS or face the risk the disease could kill nearly 500,000 people each year across the continent by 2020, a United Nations report says. While the international spotlight has often focused on AIDS in Africa, the study commissioned by the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS sounded the alarm about the impact of the scourge in Asia. About 440,000 currently die from the disease each year in Asia, the report said. The study released Wednesday also said the overall number of infected people would likely double to ten million by 2020 if prevention efforts are not implemented. The report, the most comprehensive study on the AIDS epidemic in Asia, was based on online responses from hundreds of representatives of community groups involved in AIDS-related work throughout the region.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080327/hl_afp/healthaidsunasia_080327050959

27. *March 26, News-Medical.net* – (National) **New method for rapid screening large numbers of antigens.** A team of Washington State University (WSU) scientists has devised a method that could lead to the development of vaccines against some of the most troubling infectious diseases we face. The new method allows researchers to rapidly screen large numbers of pathogen proteins, called antigens, for their ability to prompt an immune response in a host. Proteins with that ability are good candidates for use in vaccines. The method will be especially valuable in the quest for vaccines against persistent diseases such as malaria, sleeping sickness, and syphilis. The research team included scientists at WSU and at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories of the National Institutes of Health. Their paper was published in the March 20 issue of the *Journal of Immunological Methods* and is available online.
Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=36680>
28. *March 26, Associated Press* – (National) **FDA deadlines may impact drug safety.** Looking at drugs taken off the market, Harvard researchers found a disturbing pattern: Medicines approved right on deadline by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are more likely to cause safety problems later than those cleared with more time to spare. Congress set strict deadlines for FDA to speed the arrival of new medications, but critics have long complained that the ticking clock spurred a dangerous rush to judgment. The Harvard analysis of decades of drug approvals, published in Thursday's *New England Journal of Medicine*, provides the first scientific evidence supporting some of those complaints. The FDA challenged the findings with its own statistics. Still, the study sparked calls to re-examine the balance between speed and safety.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080326/ap_on_he_me/fda_deadlines;_ylt=AkPj5y0S1sUba_aDc26wK3ms0NUE

Government Facilities Sector

29. *March 27, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **Suspicious package prompts evacuation.** A federal building in downtown Salt Lake City was evacuated Wednesday after reports of a suspicious package on the building's front steps. The package was spotted shortly after noon, said a member of the Salt Lake City Police Department. He said a package wrapped in twine, with a "couple TV remote controls," sparked concern from employees at the Social Security office, who contacted authorities.
Source: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_8712147?source=rss
30. *March 27, Journal Star* – (Illinois) **WIU on alert after shooting threat.** A handwritten note threatening a shooting at Western Illinois University (WIU) on Wednesday prompted an increased police presence on campus and locked residence halls. Other area schools were on heightened alert after discovery of the note, believed to have been left overnight in a payment drop box at an off-campus apartment complex. The threat, written on notebook paper, was reported to police at 8:30 a.m. A campus alert was sent to students, parents and faculty at about 9:30 a.m. Additional officers from the WIU Office of Public Safety were called in, along with officers from the Illinois State Police,

McDonough County Sheriff's Department, and the Macomb Police Department.

Source: http://www.pjstar.com/stories/032708/REG_BG60E88V.033.php

31. *March 27, Bowling Green News* – (Ohio) **Bomb threat clears courthouse.** An anonymous bomb threat was called in to the Wood County, Ohio, Courthouse yesterday afternoon, prompting an evacuation and hour-long search. No injuries were reported and no explosive devices were found in the courthouse. The threat came in to the courthouse switchboard around 3:45 p.m., the Wood County sheriff said. The switchboard operators immediately contacted local authorities, including the sheriff's office, Bowling Green police and fire departments, courthouse security, and University police. A motive for the threat is unknown at this time. The sheriff added that there were no court or jury trials scheduled yesterday.

Source:

<http://media.www.bgnnews.com/media/storage/paper883/news/2008/03/27/Local/Bomb-Threat.Clears.Courthouse-3287041.shtml>

32. *March 26, FOX News* – (National) **Report cites increase in attacks on military recruiting centers.** A new report claims attacks on military recruiting stations are on the rise. The report, issued by a not-for-profit group that supports members of the military, calls the incidents – including the spray-painting of graffiti – “attacks,” and claims there have been more than 50 since March 2003. Vandals last week targeted the Milwaukee Army Recruiting Station, leaving behind the anti-war graffiti message “War Is Offensive.” On March 6, a hooded bicyclist was captured on video pedaling away from the military recruiting station in New York's Times Square after a small homemade explosive damaged the facade of America's busiest recruiting center. Milwaukee and Times Square are among the incidents listed in Move America Forward's report, which documents protests, broken windows, graffiti, bombs, and other disturbances among the “attacks.” The Pentagon reviewed the report but could not confirm that the more than 50 incidents listed were actual “attacks.” “Beyond incidents of vandalism, it's obviously difficult to count non-violent protests as an actual attack since these demonstrations usually do not result in deliberate acts against the U.S. military,” said a U.S. Army spokesman at the Pentagon.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,341695,00.html>

33. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **Minnesota school chlorine leak injures 38.** In Minnesota, thirty-six students were injured by a chlorine gas leak in the pool area of a high school, officials said. One adult also was taken to a hospital from Rocori High School, the mayor said. At least one other person was injured. Six students and the adult will be kept overnight at St. Cloud Hospital for further treatment, authorities said. None of the patients was critically ill, said the acting director of the hospital's emergency response team. The leak was discovered before 2 p.m., and the building was evacuated, said Stearns County Chief Sheriff's deputy. The leak was contained within an hour, he said.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23817664/>

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Emergency Services Sector

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Information Technology

34. *March 26, IDG News Service* – (National) **Hackers seize on Excel vulnerability.**

Researchers at Symantec Corp. said late Tuesday they have spotted a Web site that tries to exploit computers lacking one of the recently issued patches for versions of Microsoft's Excel spreadsheet program. The vulnerability involves a malicious Excel file that when opened can allow a hacker to execute other code on a PC. In its advisory, Symantec said one Web server is hosting the malicious file, which it calls Trojan.Mdropper.AA. Users could become infected if they open the malicious Excel file sent to them as an e-mail attachment. Also, they could be redirected to the Web site hosting the file by an iFrame embedded in a page on a compromised Web site, the vendor said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9071838&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

35. *March 26, Reuters* – (National) **Wireless carriers get a break on E911 support.** An appeals court on Tuesday put the brakes on stricter standards that regulators are seeking to impose on wireless phone carriers to help police and firefighters more accurately locate callers in an emergency. The stay had been sought by a group of rural wireless phone companies who, along with major carriers such as AT&T, Verizon Wireless, and Sprint Nextel Corp, had sought to stop the new standards from going into effect while they pursue an appeal. The new standards are aimed at allowing public safety workers to find someone who has dialed 911 from a cellular telephone. The new standards would require wireless carriers to meet location accuracy standards within the area of each local emergency call center.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,143851-c,legalissues/article.html>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

36. *March 26, Billings Gazette* – (Wyoming) **Women protesting bison slaughter arrested.** Hours after 22 more bison were shipped to slaughter from Yellowstone National Park on Wednesday, two women protesting treatment of the animals were arrested at a park visitor center. Starting at around 10 a.m., the Albright Visitor Center at Mammoth Hot Springs was closed for about three hours after the women fastened themselves to a stair railing. The bison-advocacy group Buffalo Field Campaign identified the two women. The women were arrested around 12:30 p.m. and taken to the jail at Mammoth on suspicion of disorderly conduct and interfering with agency functions, according to a Yellowstone spokesman.

Source: <http://www.missoulian.com/articles/2008/03/27/bnews/br80.txt>

37. *March 26, Newport News-Times* – (Oregon) **Trashing a national forest.** A recurring problem on the Siuslaw National Forest, as well as other national forests throughout the country, is the illegal dumping of household and commercial trash and other items such as appliances, furniture, and even auto bodies. Cleanup of these dumps costs taxpayers and takes money away from important natural resource restoration activities. Already this year, over 11 tons of trash have been removed from lands managed by the Siuslaw National Forest at a cost of \$9,600. The bulk of this waste is household trash, vehicles, and automobile tires, while recyclable metal accounts for nearly four tons of the refuse. However, it is not just the cost of cleaning up these dumps that has resource managers concerned. Hazardous waste such as battery acid, paint, pesticides, oil, and solvents create problems when they leach into the soil and contaminate ground water. Another concern for land managers is the dumping of yard debris on public lands. Many plants that are used in home landscaping are not found naturally in our area. The encroachment of non-native plants was identified by former Forest Service Chief as one of the four major threats facing our national forests.

Source: <http://www.newportnewstimes.com/articles/2008/03/26/news/news07.txt>

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Dams Sector

38. *March 27, Washington D.C. Examiner* – (District of Columbia) **D.C. to pay \$2.5M to build levee.** The District of Columbia mayor's administration has agreed to pay \$2.5 million to accelerate construction of the 17th Street levee, it was announced Wednesday. The mayor hopes the plan will keep downtown insurance premiums from spiking in the wake of a new federal plan that drastically widened D.C.'s flood plain. In a news release, the mayor couched the public funding as "a partnership" with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and promised to meet

with those agencies within 30 days to draw up a plan to repair the levee.

Source:

http://www.examiner.com/a-1304412~D_C_to_pay_2_5M_to_build_levee.html

39. *March 26, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Volunteers hold back levee ‘sand boils.’**

Volunteers armed with sandbags held back water springing up from under a rural levee Tuesday as the White River continued its highest surge in a quarter-century through eastern Arkansas. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning during the morning for rural Prairie County north of Interstate 40 after spotters noticed the levee had “sand boils” – water passing under the earthen barrier and appearing on the side like a muddy spring. By the afternoon, 100 volunteers held back the flow by building sandbag barriers for the water to be held in, creating pressure to stem the tide.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jW-BndswWuhgPAPXOK4Q6TCQsANQD8VKSC480>

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